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SUBJECT: T LETTER OF THANKS TO KAZAKHSTAN DFM YERMEKBAYEV
FOR PSI 5TH ANNIVERSARY PRESENTATION

REF: STATE 023568

¶1. SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND: Deputy Foreign Minister Nurlan Yermekbayev of Kazakhstan gave remarks at the Senior-Level Meeting for all states endorsing the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), held May 28, 2008, in Washington, DC, on the occasion of the PSI's Fifth Anniversary. Yermekbayev's presentation noted Kazakhstan's commitment to and role in the PSI, particularly in stopping proliferation by air. The PSI Senior-Level Meeting was attended by representatives of 85 countries, almost all of the 92 states that have endorsed the PSI.

¶2. ACTION REQUESTED: Embassy is requested to deliver under appropriate cover the following letter from Acting Under Secretary John Rood to Deputy Foreign Minister Yermekbayev, thanking him for his remarks at the PSI Fifth Anniversary Senior-Level Meeting. The State Department does not plan to release the text of this letter but has no objection if the Government of Kazakhstan wishes to do so. There will be no signed original.

¶3. Begin text of letter:

Dear Mr. Yermekbayev:

On behalf of the U.S. Government, I want to thank you for your remarks at the May 28, 2008 Senior-Level Meeting for participants of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) in Washington DC. Your presentation made an important contribution to the meeting by highlighting the role that non-coastal states such as Kazakhstan can have in the PSI, particularly in stopping proliferation by air.

I believe the PSI Fifth Anniversary Senior-Level Meeting was very successful in reaffirming the strong commitment of the PSI partner states to respond to the WMD proliferation challenge. It also provided the participants from 85 countries an opportunity to strengthen communication with one another. We hope this event will result in expanded participation in PSI activities, particularly on a regional basis. The United States recognizes that Kazakhstan plays a significant role in the PSI, and we greatly appreciate your Government's continued efforts and contributions to advancing the PSI goals.

Sincerely,

John C. Rood
Acting Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security

End text of letter.

¶4. POINTS OF CONTACT: Washington points of contact on the PSI are Jane Purcell (e-mail: PurcelJa@state.gov, 202-647-6186); and Carlos Guzman (e-mail: GuzmanCS@state.gov, 202-647-6320). Department appreciates Post's assistance.
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